English 9

Fredericton High School

N. Jeong

***Between Shades of Gray*- Body Paragraphs**

The paragraphs in the body of your essay serve to prove the point of your thesis statement.

1. Begin with a **topic sentence**. This is the most important sentence in the paragraph. It summarizes the information in the paragraph and tells readers what the rest of the paragraph is all about. All sentences after it have to give more information about that sentence, prove it by offering facts about it, or describe it in more detail.
2. Include **3+ sentences** to explain your topic sentence. You must include at least one **quotation** from the novel in each body paragraph to provide authority to your opinion.
3. **Conclude** with a statement that links back to your thesis. You should remind your reader of your purpose at the end of each body paragraph.

**Quotations:**

Quotes may be placed at the beginning of, in the middle of, or at the end of your own sentences, as long as you have written something to explain why that quote is there.

Sample Body Paragraph:

There are so many places where people can volunteer; hospitals, senior’s complexes, schools and churches, just to name a few. Especially as young people, it can be hard to know just what your future holds, and this means it’s difficult to see what skills you may need in the future. With choosing to volunteer in several different places, you are opening yourself up to learning as much as possible. “…with guidance, as (they) developed self-confidence and maturity, (they) moved on to other jobs, gravitating toward those that would suit (their) own interests and skills” (Lowry 26). For example, if you work with senior citizens, as Jonas did in the novel, *The Giver*, you would learn the value of hearing the stories of others, you would gain empathy for their positions in life, and you’d also understand the physical demands and limited abilities of being elderly. On the other hand, if you chose to volunteer at a Sunday school working with kindergarten-aged children, you’d have an entirely different experience. You may instead learn about having patience and seeing things from a different perspective, you’d learn about planning ahead, and to expect the unexpected. These are just a couple of examples. If you chose not to volunteer at all, you may never learn these important life skills!